

To: "Allen, Kara" [Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov]

From: "Allen, Kara" <Kara.Allen@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Mon 12/10/2012 3:03:58 PM

Subject: SEEC Daily Clips 12.10.12

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Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition

December 10, 2012

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Top news stories:

Kyoto Protocol extended in contentious U.N. climate talks (Washington Post)

Delegates to U.N. climate talks in Doha agreed Saturday to extend the Kyoto Protocol, a pact that aims to curb greenhouse gas emissions from industrialized nations but will cover only about 15 percent of the world's carbon output.

White House seeks \$60.4 billion for Sandy reconstruction (Yahoo! News)

President Barack Obama formally asked Congress Friday for \$60.4 billion to help states such as New Jersey and New York rebuild in the aftermath of devastating Superstorm Sandy.

House to vote on asthma inhaler bill (E&E*)

Legislation that would put a controversial asthma inhaler back on pharmacy shelves is slated for a House vote this week, possibly as soon as Wednesday.

Conference begins on must-pass policy bill, with hot-button energy provisions on the table (E&E*)

Conference negotiations formally kick off this week over the 2013 defense policy bill, where energy provisions have proved to be among the most contentious.

Energy news:

With deadline looming, PTC backers focus on eligibility requirements (E&E*)

They may not be able to do much to influence the "fiscal cliff" negotiations that remained at an impasse last week, but wind energy supporters are continuing to pound the halls of Congress with a somewhat nuanced request that will have an outsized influence

on the state of the industry.

The natural gas revolution reversing LNG tanker trade (Washington Post)

As recently as four years ago, energy experts agreed that the United States would need to import LNG to fill the gap between rising U.S. consumption of natural gas and stagnant or diminishing domestic supplies.

Department of Energy: New report on exportation (Energy Bulletin)

The US Department of Energy (DOE) released a report on 5 December, 2012 which examined the question of economic benefit to the US of natural gas exportation. Last December, Deloitte issued an independent report regarding exportation which had hauntingly similar conclusions. Interestingly enough, many of the conclusions in the Deloitte report are now known to be erroneous only one year later.

Renewable energy increase will require use of more fossil fuels (LA Times)

As more solar and wind energy generators come online, fulfilling a legal mandate to produce one-third of California's electricity by 2020, the demand will rise for more backup power from fossil fuel plants.

Shell's US chief sees Obama approving 'phased' natural-gas exports (The Hill)

Marvin Odum, the head of Royal Dutch Shell's U.S. arm, predicts the federal government will provide a green light for expanded exports of natural gas. Odum, the president of Shell Oil Co., said he envisions "phased" approvals.

Hearing to highlight how incentives fit into tax reform debate (E&E*)

To that end, Bingaman will convene a hearing this week in the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Energy, Natural Resources and Infrastructure, which he chairs, to examine how incentives for energy efficiency can fit into the broader tax reform context.

New York Fracking Rules: Regulators Taking Public Comments On Revised Gas Drilling Regulation (Huffington Post)

New York regulators will begin taking public comments on revised gas-drilling rules this week, though an extensive environmental review outlining the basis for those rules remains incomplete, and neither drillers nor environmentalists are happy lately with the state's work on the issue.

A123 Systems Reaches Agreement to Sell Substantially All Assets to Wanxiang (Business Wire)

A123 Systems, Inc., a developer and manufacturer of advanced Nanophosphate® lithium iron phosphate batteries and systems, today announced that it has reached agreement on the terms of an asset purchase agreement with Wanxiang America Corporation through which Wanxiang would acquire substantially all of A123's assets for \$256.6 million.

A Pledge to Reform Greedy Set-Top Boxes (New York Times)

Facing the prospect of regulation by the Environmental Protection Agency, cable TV operators and appliance manufacturers have announced a voluntary program to improve the energy efficiency of the set-top boxes that bring programming into your home. Some environmental advocates say the changes don't go nearly far enough.

How CHP Stepped Up When the Power Went Out During Hurricane Sandy (The Energy Collective)

A CHP system kept the heat and lights running for the over 55,000 tenants of New York's middle-income Co-Op City housing complex. And it wasn't just Co-Op City residents. For four days, a CHP system provided all 290 units in a Manhattan residential complex with all its heating, water, and electrical needs, including elevators, until the grid was back up.

Distributed PV Power Generation to Accelerate China Market Growth (Renewable Energy World)

During September and October 2012, the Chinese government announced intensive Distributed PV Power Generation policies that are likely to expand the market share of the building-mount PV segment in China. An installation target of 5 GW distributed PV power generation yearly is expected to be achieved by the end of 2016.

Climate news:

Climate Treaty Hinges on Obama Making Case, Ex-Aides Say (Bloomberg)

One of the biggest things President Barack Obama can do to fight global warming is to talk about it. That's the conclusion of at least seven former U.S. presidential aides and advisers serving in three administrations.

Leader of Dem governors promises 'laser' focus on climate (The Hill)

The new chairman of the Democratic Governors Association (DGA), Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin (D), said the group will focus heavily on climate change during his tenure.

Who Will Lead for Obama on Carbon and Clean Energy Policy? (InsideClimate News)

As a stalemated Congress shies away from taking serious action on climate change, environmentalists are focusing on potential cabinet openings at the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy that could further their efforts.

House Energy Chairman Upton: Exxon's support for carbon tax isn't 'very serious' (The Hill)

Despite the company's public embrace of a carbon tax, Rep. Upton says Exxon Mobil isn't pushing lawmakers hard. "I don't think it is a very serious effort on their part," Upton said on Fox News. Upton said he told Exxon representatives personally that it's a nonstarter.

Ignoring Planetary Peril, a Profound 'Disconnect' Between Science and Doha (New York Times)

In one of the most poignant moments of the Doha climate talks, the Philippine climate change commissioner, Naderev M. Sano, appealed to his fellow negotiators at a session deciding the contours of the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Climate Talks Yield Commitment to Ambitious, but Unclear, Actions (New York Times)

The annual United Nations climate change negotiations concluded here late Saturday after the customary all-night negotiating session and recriminations over who must bear the costs and burdens of a warming planet.

Doha climate change deal clears way for 'damage aid' to poor nations (Guardian)

Poor countries have won historic recognition of the plight they face from the ravages of climate change, wringing a pledge from rich nations that they will receive funds to repair the "loss and damage" incurred.

California oil companies may be warming up to a carbon tax (Sacramento Bee)

The oil industry spent \$93 million to blow up a 2006 initiative that sought to raise an oil severance tax. Taxes are not part of oil executives' DNA. But ever so cautiously, the industry is contemplating a California carbon tax. It's all very preliminary. But that oil representatives are mulling a tax reflects their concern about California's efforts to restrict greenhouse gas emissions.

Report: Ski Industry Sees \$1 Billion In Global Warming Losses (ThinkProgress)

With the state's major ski resorts struggling to open just minimal amounts of terrain in time for the busy Christmas holiday season, two University of New Hampshire researchers estimate that the \$12.2 billion industry has already suffered a \$1 billion loss and dropped up to 27,000 jobs due to diminished snow fall patterns and the resulting changes in the outdoor habits of Americans.

The Real War on Christmas: Climate Change (Mother Jones)

Every year we hear about some new front in the "War on Christmas" that liberals are supposedly waging against this most important of all Christian holidays. But an actual war on Christmas is coming—and it's spurred by climate change.

Without Congress, There's Still a Path to U.S. Progress on Climate (Yale Environment 360)

Don't expect the U.S. Congress to take any action on climate change in the next four years. But by continuing to use its regulatory authority and working with the states, the Obama administration can make significant progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate Skeptics Swayed by Consensus, Not Evidence (LiveScience)

Conservatives are less likely to accept the reality of human-caused climate science when presented with supporting scientific evidence. But tell them that 99 out of 100 climate scientists agree on the subject, and conservatives will be more likely to accept that humans are altering the climate, according to a new pilot study.

Climate change creates grizzly conflicts in Arctic (Vancouver Sun)

Climate change is pushing tundra grizzlies into Arctic communities where they would not normally be seen, raising issues about human safety and conservation of the bears.

Chicago Snowless Record Could Be Broken After 18 Years (Huffington Post)

In Chicago, it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas--just not a white one. As of Sunday, the city is poised to break an 18-year record for most consecutive days without "measurable" snowfall, according to the National Weather Service.

Environment & Health news:

States to White House: Don't Bend On EPA Rule (National Journal)

A group of blue states is urging the White House to not curtail an air-pollution standard the administration has said it will finalize by next Friday.

What's at Stake for Energy, Environment in Fiscal Cliff? (National Journal)

Congressional Democrats are pushing to eliminate oil and gas subsidies as part of any compromise. Meanwhile, some fossil-fuel industry and business groups are making the case that increased oil and natural-gas drilling can help solve the country's fiscal crisis, too. Do either or both of these efforts have a chance at making it into any grand bargain?

On environment, Obama likely to keep walking middle line (Los Angeles Times)

Over the last four years, Obama charted a middle course on the environment that led to landmark pollution rules, growth in clean energy and the continued development of fossil fuels. For at least much of his second term, there will probably be no sweeping new legislation on climate, air or water pollution, many analysts say, especially with the House of Representatives still controlled by Republicans.

Keystone Conflict: Nebraska Firm Reviewing Tar Sands Project Has Ties to Pipeline Builder (Huffington Post)

HDR, an engineering and consulting firm based in Omaha, was hired by the state to conduct an environmental impact assessment of the \$7 billion project, which, if approved, would transport toxic crude oil from the Alberta tar sands fields across Nebraska's environmentally sensitive Sandhills and the largest freshwater aquifer in North America. Now it turns out that HDR has a very cozy relationship with the company it was supposed to evaluate.

Encana calls on EPA to abandon Pavillion test wells (Star-Tribune)

The company in the center of a groundwater contamination debate thinks the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency should abandon its monitoring wells near Pavillion and refocus its investigation.

Concerns grow over children's pesticide exposure (Seacoast Online)

Due to a major policy report released last month by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the NNEPC may be fielding a different type of call in the coming years — potential long-term pesticide poisonings due to exposures in back yards or school and municipal playgrounds. The report said there is a growing body of evidence showing the relation between pesticides and negative health impacts to children.

'Famous' Wolf Is Killed Outside Yellowstone (New York Times)

Yellowstone National Park's best-known wolf, beloved by many tourists and valued by scientists who tracked its movements, was shot and killed on Thursday outside the park's boundaries, Wyoming wildlife officials reported.

Reindeer Populations in Decline (Living on Earth)

Reindeer, or caribou, are in dramatic decline in the far north. Jeff Flocken of the International Fund for Wildlife explains that changing weather makes food hard to obtain for some caribou.

Mighty Old Trees Are Perishing Fast, Study Warns (New York Times)

The death rate of many of the biggest and oldest trees around the world is increasing rapidly, scientists report in a new study in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*. They warned that research to understand and stem the loss of the trees is urgently needed.

For much of U.S., fire hazard lingers as drought persists (E&E*)

An unusually late fire season may bring coal to more than a few Christmases this year. Ongoing drought conditions across much of the West, Midwest and South have left ample fuel for ignition, keeping firefighters on edge and raising alerts in a number of states.

Colorado county emerges as a battleground on oil and gas air emissions (Denver Post)

Garfield County Colorado is one of the most drilled places in the country — with about 15,000 drilling permits issued since 2005 — and it is emerging as a battleground in the debate over the air quality impacts of oil and gas development.

Oilmen eye public lands far afield (Coloradoan)

As cities and towns on the Front Range debate how to handle the rising wave of oil and gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing within their boundaries, wildlife and natural resource-rich public lands farther afield and less visible from major highways are seeing no less an oil and gas exploration boom than on private lands along the Front Range.

Carnegie scientists unveil initial data on Amazon drought (Nature)

Scientists were still debating the satellite signal of the megadrought that struck the Amazon Basin in 2005 when another megadrought hit in 2010. That work continues, but this time around the Carnegie Institution for Science in Stanford, California, was ready with a new tool that goes beyond blurry pixels and provides a detailed view of individual trees — and indeed large branches.

* indicates subscription required

These news clips are intended to be informative and are provided as a courtesy to member offices of the Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and others. SEEC is a coalition of fifty-two Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives that was founded in January 2009 to be a focused, active, and effective coalition for advancing "policies that promote clean energy technology innovation and domestic manufacturing, develop renewable energy resources, and create green collar jobs throughout the product supply-chain, and policies to help arrest global warming and protect our nation's clean air, water and natural environment." SEEC is Co-Chaired by Reps. Steve Israel (D-NY), Paul Tonko (D-NY), and Gerald Connolly (D-Va.). SEEC vice chairs are Reps. Rush Holt (D-NJ), Chellie Pingree (D-ME), Jared Polis (D-CO), and Doris Matsui (D-CA.)

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